

**MIND MAPPING AS PRE-READING ACTIVITY
TO
ENHANCE UNDERSTANDING IN READING**

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2002



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Dengan segala hormatnya dimaklumkan bahawa penama tersebut di atas kini sedang mengikuti program Sarjana Muda Pendidikan (Kepujian) Bahasa Inggeris sebagai Bahasa Kedua (TESL) di Fakulti Pendidikan, Universiti Teknologi MARA, Shah Alam.

Sebagai memenuhi keperluan mendapatkan Ijazah Sarjana Muda beliau dikehendaki menyediakan projek penyelidikan mengenai bidang pendidikan, khususnya bidang yang berkaitan dengan pengajaran dan pembelajaran.

Bagi tujuan tersebut, beliau perlu mendapatkan maklumat yang berkaitan dengan bidang penyelidikan beliau.

Saya dengan ini memohon jasa baik pihak Y. Bhg. Tan Sri/Puan Sri/Dato'/Datin/Tuan/Puan untuk memberi kebenaran kepada beliau membuat rujukan di organisasi Y. Bhg. Tan Sri/Puan Sri/Dato'/Datin/Tuan/Puan serta mendapatkan maklumat berkaitan yang diperlukan bagi tujuan projek penyelidikan beliau.

Maklumat yang diperolehi akan digunakan semata-mata untuk tujuan akademik.

Sekian, segala kerjasama yang diberikan oleh Y. Bhg. Tan Sri/Puan Sri/Dato'/Datin/Tuan/Puan berikan kepada beliau didahului dengan ribuan terima kasih.

Yang benar

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CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

Pupils acquire the skills of listening and speaking in their mother tongue, unless prevented by physical or mental illness. However, they need to be taught the skills of reading.

Learning to read is possibly a slow and difficult process. Learning to read takes time, effort and practice where the more practice students have, the more confident and competent they become. Reading is known as receptive skill, which means when a person reads; he receives what the writer has written. At the same time, as a reader he receives what the writer has written. At the same time, as a reader, he needs to react to what he reads so that he will understand what has been written. In the primary school syllabus, reading is taught integrated with listening, speaking and writing. They are all considered important. To achieve the aim as well-balanced learners students must acquire the four skills.

For teachers, the teaching of reading is not an easy job. Students take a long time to understand what they have read. Understanding a text is a must because students have to comprehend what they read in order to do other productive skills like speaking and writing.

After reading a text, students usually are unable to give answers to comprehension questions. Among other reasons, the students do not understand the text that they read. There should be some changes in the way they deal with the texts given to them. Something should be done in order to help them to understand the text by

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PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

Difficulty in understanding a text is a result of many reasons. One of them is students are not being prepared to understand what they read. Therefore, the researcher will look into the process of reading by focussing on pre-reading stage and use the technique of mind mapping so as to activate the students' previous knowledge. The study will be based on Schemata Theory.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Hopefully this classroom-based study will be able to highlight the use of mind mapping in helping the students to comprehend texts. The teacher will guide the students to use their previous knowledge in understanding the texts that they read. Through the activity of questions and answers in building mind map, students will provide the information that they have, concerning the topic that is being discussed, thus reading a text will be more enjoyable and meaningful. Consequently, students will be motivated to read more and improve their command of English.

At the end of this study, teacher should be able to use the technique of mind mapping effectively in teaching reading comprehension to the students. Teacher should be ready with appropriate passages. He should prepare suitable questions to be asked to the students during process of building the mind map. This will hopefully help them to come out with their background knowledge about the topic being discussed. Teacher should always be aware of how much the students know about the topic, in term of concept, before they start reading the text and how much knowledge do they gain after reading it.